

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Division of Biographic Information

SALTER, Lord

UNITED KINGDOM

*Our Speaker this evening*  
Salter is a vigorous internationalist and opponent of economic nationalism who has won distinction as a statesman, author, educator, political economist, and authority on shipping. Salter was born on Tuesday, March 15, 1881, in Oxford, where he received his education. He graduated in 1904 from Brasenose College, Oxford, where he studied classics and philosophy, and entered the Admiralty, initiating the long years of government service which earned him the title of "civil servant par excellence." In 1913 he became Assistant Secretary in the National Health Insurance Commission and took part in the framing and administration of the original national health insurance scheme. During the first World War he won prominence as an organizer of world shipping, becoming Chairman of the Allied Maritime Transport Executive and, in 1919, a member of the Supreme Economic Council.

Salter's postwar work for the League of Nations laid the foundations of his world-wide reputation as an economist. He was general secretary to the Reparations Commission from 1920 to 1922, director of the economic and financial section of the League during the 1920's, and later a member of important missions to India and China. In 1931, the year he retired from the League Secretariat, Salter attended the League's General Assembly as a UK delegate. Between then and the outbreak of World War II Salter divided his attention between teaching and government service. He was Professor of Political Theory at Oxford from 1934 to 1944 and sat as an Independent M.P. for the University from 1937 until the university vote was abolished in 1950. In 1932 he became a member of the Economic Advisory Council and Chairman of the Railway Road-Rail Conference. From 1936 to 1939 he served as Chairman of the Railway Staff National Tribunal.

In 1939 he was appointed Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport, and two years later went to Washington as Head of the British Merchant Shipping Mission. During 1944 he served as Deputy Director General of UNRRA, and from 1947 to 1948 he was chairman of the Advisory Council of the International Bank. In the 1945 "Caretaker" Government he was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, with special responsibilities for matters affecting European reconstruction. He wrote frequently and spoke widely on the subject of economic cooperation; in 1948 he attended the Congress of Europe at The Hague. Salter joined the Conservative Party and was elected M.P. for Ormskirk in April 1951. In 1952 he became the Minister of State for Economic Affairs, attended OEEC meetings in Paris, and led the UK delegation to the Mexico City meeting of the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He was Minister of Materials from November 1952 to September 1953. Shortly afterwards he was created a Baron, taking the title of Lord Salter of Kidlington in the County of Oxford. In the spring of 1954 he went to Baghdad at the invitation of the Iraqi Government to advise the Iraq Development Board.

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Salter has received numerous orders, degrees and other honors in recognition of his accomplishments. In 1926, for example, the University of Vienna conferred upon him an honorary LL.D., a distinction rarely shown a foreigner. He has published many books and articles; his most recent publication, in 1957, is The United Nations: reform, replace or supplement?

Salter's wife, the widow of Arthur Bullard of Washington, is a former U.S. citizen. The couple were married in 1940.

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